

IN THE CLAIMS

The following is a complete listing of the claims now pending. This listing replaces all earlier versions and listings of the claims.

Claims 1-19 (canceled)

Claim 20 (currently amended): A control method for a distributed printing system comprising:

an acknowledging step, of acknowledging paper ejection type of a plurality of available printing apparatuses;

an assigning step, of dividing a print job into a plurality of divided print jobs and assigning the plurality of print jobs to the plurality of printing apparatuses;

a recognition step, of recognizing a status of [[a]] the plurality of printing apparatus apparatuses; and

a decision step, of, in a case of assigning at least [[a]] part of [[a]] the divided print job to be printed by initially assigned to a first printing apparatus among the plurality of printing apparatus apparatuses to another a second printing apparatus in accordance with the status recognized in said recognition step, deciding the other second printing apparatus from among [[a]] the plurality of available printing apparatuses to which the print job is assigned in accordance with the paper ejection type of the plurality of available printing apparatuses.

Claims 21-25 (canceled)

Claim 26 (previously presented): A control method according to claim 21, wherein the paper ejection type represents a direction of a surface of ejected paper, and the direction is face-up or face-down.

Claim 27 (previously presented): A control method according to claim 21, wherein the paper ejection type is an output order of pages, and the output order is ascending or descending.

Claims 28-30 (canceled)

Claim 31 (currently amended): A control method according to claim [[21]] 20, further comprising a determination step, of, in a case of assigning at least part of the ~~distributed~~ divided print job ~~to be printed by initially assigned to the first~~ printing apparatus to ~~another~~ the second printing apparatus in accordance with the status recognized in said recognition step, determining whether ~~the other~~ a printing apparatus which prints pages preceding to the ~~distributed~~ divided print job assigned to the first printing apparatus produces a face-down output,

wherein if an affirmative decision is rendered in said determination step, then in said decision step, ~~at least part of the distributed job to be printed by the printing apparatus is assigned to the other~~ the printing apparatus subjected to the determination is decided as the second printing apparatus ~~that prints the preceding pages.~~

Claim 32 (currently amended): A control method according to claim 31, wherein if the ~~distributed~~ divided print job includes the first page of the print job prior to its division, then determination on a printing apparatus that prints the ~~distributed~~ divided print job including the final page of the print job is performed in said determination step instead of the printing apparatus that prints the preceding pages.

Claim 33 (currently amended): A control method according to claim [[21]] 20, further comprising a determination step, of, in a case of assigning at least part of the ~~distributed~~ divided print job ~~to be printed by~~ initially assigned to the first printing apparatus to ~~another~~ the second printing apparatus in accordance with the status recognized in said recognition step, determining whether ~~the other~~ a printing apparatus which prints pages following the ~~distributed~~ divided print job assigned to the first printing apparatus produces a face-up output,

wherein if an affirmative decision is rendered in said determination step, then in said decision step, ~~at least part of the distributed jobs to be printed by the printing apparatus is assigned to the other~~ the printing apparatus subjected to the determination is decided as the second printing apparatus ~~that prints the following pages.~~

Claim 34 (currently amended): A control method according to claim 33, wherein if the ~~distributed~~ divided print job includes the final page of the print job prior to its division, then determination on a printing apparatus that prints the ~~distributed~~ divided print job including the first page of the print job is performed in said determination step instead of the printing apparatus that prints the following pages.

Claim 35 (canceled)

Claim 36 (currently amended): A control method according to claim [[23]] 20, further comprising a detection step, of in a case of assigning at least part of the divided print job initially assigned to the first printing apparatus to the second printing apparatus in accordance with the status recognized in said recognition step, detecting a page or pages which have been printed by the first printing apparatus,

wherein, ~~in said reassignment step,~~ the ~~distributed~~ divided print job ~~to be printed by initially assigned to the first~~ printing apparatus except the page or pages which have been printed in the first printing apparatus is reassigned to ~~another~~ the second printing apparatus.

Claim 37 (previously presented): A control method according to claim 20, wherein the status is an abnormal state in the printing apparatus, and the abnormal state includes at least either of depletion of paper and power off state.

Claims 38-59 (canceled)

Claim 60 (currently amended): A control method according to claim 20, wherein, in a case where the print job is generated based on an intermediate file, the part of the divided print job corresponds to pages which have not been successfully printed by the first printing apparatus and, in said decision step, the ~~another~~ second printing apparatus to which the part of the divided print job is assigned is decided in accordance with the paper

ejection type of the first printing apparatus and the paper ejection type of the other printing apparatus apparatuses.